



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill  
Middle District of Florida

|   |         |              |                       |       |
|---|---------|--------------|-----------------------|-------|
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## **TAMPA MAN CONVICTED AFTER FEDERAL TRIAL**

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\_\_\_\_ United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill, Virginia T. O'Brien, Special Agent in Charge, Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives(ATF), and Hillsborough County Sheriff David Gee, announced today that following a one-day trial at the United States District Court ARTAVIS D. DAWKINS, age 23, was convicted of being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition, and possession of cocaine base "crack" and marihuana. He faces a maximum sentence of ten years in federal prison. A sentencing date has not been set.

DAWKINS was stopped for a vehicle violation on the evening of November 14, 2007, in northern Hillsborough County and subsequently arrested. A .32 caliber pistol, "crack" cocaine and marihuana were found in his possession. DAWKINS had previously been convicted of felony drug offenses in the Circuit Court of Hillsborough County on at least three occasions and was previously convicted for being a felon in possession of a firearm in Hillsborough County in May 2004.

This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill, along with Virginia O'Brien, Special Agent in Charge, ATF Tampa Field Division, is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District

of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

This case was investigated by ATF and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Walter E. Furr, III.